

Fulton Lewis, Jr.

The Washington Report



WASHINGTON, Dec. 12 -- The heretofore unidentified "top-ranking Communist" who swapped letters with Lee Harvey Oswald is a veteran revolutionary once convicted of teaching the violent overthrow of the U. S. government.

He is Arnold Samuel Johnson, who, it can be revealed on excellent authority, wrote Oswald from Communist Party headquarters in New York.

Johnson urged Oswald to "keep in touch" as he moved back and forth from Dallas

to New Orleans. While the Johnson letters indicate Oswald was not under Communist discipline, they do show him to be a dedicated Marxist. Johnson was indicted in 1951, and convicted in 1953, of violating the Smith Act. The prosecution showed that Johnson was loyal to a foreign power and that he had taught the violent overthrow of the federal government. He served three years in prison, getting out in 1957.

Johnson also served as the Communist Party's executive director in New York. He is a member of the party's national committee. When Johnson was indicted, he was charged with conspiring to overthrow the government. He was also charged with being a Communist agent, and a federal judge ruled that Johnson was "responsible for any communist work."

It was not the first time that Johnson has been in the news. On May 1, 1962, he was named as a party official who was scheduled to appear on New York radio. The program host, Barry Gray, had arranged to have Herb Romerstein, a staunch anti-Communist, debate with the party spokesman. Johnson stalked off the program when told he would share the mike with Romerstein, a former Communist who serves now as an expert consultant to various government security agencies.

NOTE: Another Oswald pen pal was Vincent Theodore Lee, head of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. Lee first denied any knowledge of Oswald, who was arrested once for passing out Fair Play leaflets in New Orleans.

Lee then discovered in his files six letters from Oswald, and turned them over to the FBI. Meanwhile, federal authorities had uncovered letters from Lee among Oswald's effects. The letters carried instructions on setting up a Fair Play chapter.

Lee has never been identified as a Communist in an extensive history. See "Internal Subjects," New York Times, Dec. 10, 1963. Lee's statement is that he refuses to answer questions. He denied participation in Communist Party membership and on Cuban assistance in his "Independent" group.

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KEY TO SYMBOLS



With a...

Orphan Gets A Deer

The Park Cities Jaycees in cooperation with the Fowler's Orphans Home took two orphan boys to Abilene for a two day deer hunt. Clint Frank, Bob Campbell, and Greg Boss handled all the arrangements for the Jaycees. The boys flew out to Abilene in a private plane owned by W.C. Fain. Nick Browndyke, treasurer of the Park Cities Jaycees, escorted the boys, David Hopkins and Ben Haskel, from the orphan home to Abilene.

All the boys got a shot at many deer, but the only one to prove himself a marksman was David Hopkins who got a good size buck.